

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00153 241459Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W

-----241509 028520 /53

P R 241350Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4389

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PINT ET CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN DELEGATION IN ASMARA

1. A MIXED MILITARY/CIVILIAN DELEGATION OF CUBAN OFFICIALS ARRIVED IN ASMARA JUST AFTER NOON ON FEB 23, AND BEGAN A VERY HIGH PROFILE VISIT. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS ALLEGED VISITS BY COMMUNIST AND BLOC OFFICIALS TO ASMARA WHICH, BECAUSE OF EXTREME SECRECY, COULD NEVER BE CONFIRMED, THE CUBAN DELEGATION WAS HOSTED WITH CONSIDERABLE FANFARE.

2. THEY ARRIVED FROM ADDIS ON A SPECIAL EAF FLIGHT AND WERE ESCORTED BY MOTORCYCLE POLICE, MACHINEGUN JEEPS AND TRUCKLOADS OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00153 241459Z

SOLDIERS, FORCING MOTORISTS OFF THE ROAD ALONG THE ROUTE. AFTER LUNCH AT THE PALACE HOSTED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR COL. FIKRU, THEY MADE A TOUR OF THE CITY AND THE MAJOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. THAT EVENING THEY WERE THE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A LARGE DINNER ATTENDED ONLY BY EPMG MILITARY OFFICIALS.

3. ON FEB 24, THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION, IDENTIFIED AS A CUBAN

GENERAL, ADDRESSED A LARGE GATHERING OF EPMG TROOPS AT SECOND DIVISION HQ. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE GIVEN HIS SUPPORT TO THE DIRG IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST "REACTIONARIES" AND TO HAVE HARSHLY DENOUNCED PRESIDENT NUMEIRI. MOST CURIOUS WAS A REPORT THAT HE ADMITTED THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAD ONCE SUPPORTED THE ERITREAN CAUSE WITH ARMS, BUT THAT THEY HAD NOW SEEN THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS AND WOULD PROVIDE EVEN GREATER SUPPORT TO THE EPMG.

4. LOCAL EPMG OFFICIALS ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE A TOUR OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIES ONLY TO BE TOLD BY THE FACTORY MANAGERS THAT THE PLANTS WERE CLOSED AND THAT THE WORKERS WERE ON LEAVE. RATHER THAN DISPLAY A SERIES OF VACANT FACTORIES, THE TOUR WAS CANCELLED. THE FAILURE OF THIS UNDERTAKING APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE INFORMED OF THE VISIT ONLY AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

5. THE DELEGATION, WHICH WAS SEEN BY A NUMBER OF RELIABLE SOURCES, CONSISTED OF THE GENERAL, ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICER AND THREE CIVILIANS, INCLUDING A WOMAN. OTHER, MORE JUNIOR OFFICERS, WERE SAID ALSO TO HAVE ACCOMPANIED THE DELEGATION TO ASMARA. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO DEPART ASMARA ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEB 24 AND RETURN TO ADDIS.

6. AS AN ADJUNCT TO THIS VISIT, THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT VICE CHAIRMAN ATNAFU ACCOMPANIED THE CUBANS TO ASMARA, AND THEN DEPARTED FOR HIS ANNOUNCED VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. ONE SUSPECTS THAT THIS REPORT ORIGINATED FROM THE OBVIOUS FANFARE ATTENDING THE CUBAN VISIT COMBINED WITH THE MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT OF ATNAFU'S IMMINENT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00153 241459Z

7. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE VISIT WAS PRIMARILY AIMED AT BOOSTING THE MORALE OF DISENCHANTED EPMG TROOPS IN ERITREA BY IMPORTING A SENIOR FOREIGN DIGNITARY FROM A "FRIENDLY" REGIME TO REAFFIRM SOLIDARITY WITH THE EPMG.  
WAUCHOPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ASMARA00153  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770064-0526  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770215/aaaaamzo.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 7c78c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3246277  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CUBAN DELEGATION IN ASMARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, CU  
**To:** STATE ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7c78c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009